

October 16, 2024

John M. Nolan
Chair, Member Selection Committee
c/o American College of Real Estate Lawyers
220 N Market Street, Suite 100
Frederick, MD 21701

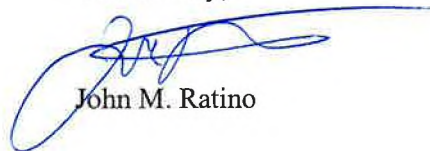
Dear Mr. Nolan:

I am pleased to second the nomination of Stephen Shapiro for membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers made by Michael Pickett.

I first met Steve in 2018, when Steve asked Michael Pickett and me to teach a class on entity structuring in the Hotel and Tourism Law Program Steve had created at American University's Washington College of Law, and it has been my pleasure to continue participating in that program over the past six years. During that time, I have come to know Steve as an entrepreneurial, knowledgeable, dynamic, and pragmatic professor, who is fully committed to the success of his students. He is the type of professor who tirelessly invests in his students well beyond the classroom, personally seeking out educational, employment and mentoring opportunities for many of them. In sum, Steve is truly an impactful professor, and I believe he is an outstanding candidate for ACREL.

I have received and reviewed the Proposal for Membership submitted by Michael Pickett and certify that Steve Shapiro satisfies the criteria for selection to the College as set forth in Section 4 of the Guidelines for Regular Member Selection. In my opinion and to my knowledge, the Nominee satisfies ACREL's Statement of Professionalism and exemplifies the standards of professional integrity and civility as provided in the Guidelines. I am not (a) in the same firm, business entity, faculty or other organization as the Nominee, (b) related by birth or marriage to the Nominee, or (c) a current Governor or member of the Member Selection Committee of the College. Neither the nominee nor his/her employer regularly employs or retains me or my law firm or employer.

Yours truly,



John M. Ratino

cc: J. Michael Pickett